

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00368 01 OF 02 290758Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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DLOS-09 OES-07 EB-08 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-12 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 857

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

SECDEF

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VICTORIA 368

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, XO

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES OF SOUTHWEST INDIAN
OCEAN: PRESIDENT RENE'S ADDRESS

REF A) VICTORIA 196 (DTG 031000Z MAR 78) B) VICTORIA 353(DTG 250556Z
APR 78) CL VICTORIA 361 (DTG 270955Z APR 78)

FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF
APRIL 27 SPEECH BY SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT FRANCE
ALBERT RENE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES OF THE SOUTHWEST
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PAGE 02 VICTOR 00368 01 OF 02 290758Z

INDIAN OCEAN: QUOTE

I CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR FOR ME AND FOR MY COUNTRY
TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOST THIS CONFERENCE OF THE
PROGRESSIVE PARTIES OF SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN. THE
HONOR IS GREATER WHEN ONE CONSIDERS HOW IMPORTANT THE
SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONFERENCE IS, AND HOW FAR

REACHING THE DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS CAN BE. EVERY ONE
OF US, CITIZENS OF THIS AREA OF THE WORLD, WILL, I
AM SURE HAVE REASON TO REMEMBER THIS IMPORTANT
CONFERENCE WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF
OUR COUNTRIES GROUPS TOGETHER OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONS.
TOGETHER WITH OTHER LITORAL STATES OF OUR GREAT OCEAN,
WE SHARE THE DESTINY OF OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES. ALL OF
US GATHERED HERE TODAY HAVE ONE AMBITION AND ONE AIM IN
COMMON-THE GREATER IMPORTANCE OF MAN IN A WORLD WHICH
TO A LARGE EXTENT CAN ONLY REFLECT ON MATERIAL GAIN.
THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE AFFAIRS
OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE A SACRED TRUST AND I AM PROUD TO SAY
THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PRESENT AND THOSE WHOM YOU
REPRESENT TAKE THIS TRUST WITH THE SERIOUSNESS AND
DEVOTION IT DESERVES. MANY OF OUR LEADERS IN THIS
PART OF THE WORLD ARE ALREADY UNDER THE SENTENCE OF
DEATH. WE HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF THE CRIME OF CARING
FOR OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE OFFENDED THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT
THEY AND THEY ONLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN THE WORLD
ACCORDING TO THEIR PRINCIPLES. AND YET HOW GREAT
AND COMFORTING IT MUST BE FOR OUR PEOPLES TO KNOW
THAT WE, THE PROGRESSIVE LEADERS OF THIS REGION, ARE
READY TO DIE FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. WE SHALL NEVER
COMPRIMISE, AND IF WE HAVE TO DIE, WE SHALL DO SO WITH
A SMILE ON OUR FACES FOR WE KNOW THAT WHAT WE HAVE SOWN
WILL GROW IN THE HEARTS OF MAN AND WILL BEAR FRUITS.
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PAGE 03 VICTOR 00368 01 OF 02 290758Z

OF THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT.

NEITHER DO WE DOUBT THE FACT THAT OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT EASY. DEEP
INSIDE THEIR WARM HEARTS OUR PEOPLES KNOW
THAT THE ROAD WE HAVE MAPPED OUT IS TH RIGHT ONE AND
YET TOO OFTEN THE PAST HAUNTS OUR PROGRESS AND DELAYS
OUR EFFORTS. HOWEVER, AS EACH ONE OF US FEELS THE
BLESSINGS OF HUMAN DIGNITY WE ALSO ACQUIRE THE
NECESSARY COURAGE TO FACT THE FUTURE AND TO SURMOUNT
OUR OBSTACLES. OUR STRUGGLE TO MAKE THE INDIAN OCEAN
A ZONE OF PEACE IS UNDENIABLY A WORTHY
STRUGGLE. FOR MANY YEARS NOW WE HAVE TOLD THE SUPER-
POWERS THAT WE DO NOT WANT THEM TO COME AND WASH
THEIR DIRTY LINEN ON OUR DOOR-STEPS. WE DO NOT WANT
THEM TO STRETCH THEIR MUSCLES IN OUR AREA OF THE
WORLD.

AND YET-THEY CHOOSE TO IGNORE US-THEY CHOOSE NOT
TO LISTEN TO OUR VIEWS-SO MUCH SO THAT EVEN WHEN
THEY HOLD TALKS TO DEMILITARISE OUR 'OCEAN' THEY
CHOOSE TO IGNORE OUR VERY EXISTENCE.

WE CANNOT BE IGNORED. WE MUST NOT BE IGNORED. WE
CANNOT FACE THE CONDEMNATION OF FUTURE GENERATIONS
WHO WILL BLAME US IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE IGNORED.

THE CONCEPT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE IS
NOT NEW. IN CAIRO IN 1964 THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT
CONFERENCE WAS ALREADY DEPLORING THE BUILD UP OF
MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. IT EXPRESSLY CONDEMNED
THE INTENTION OF CERTAIN POWERS TO ESTABLISH BASES
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN SPITE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
INTERVENING; IN SPITE OF PROTESTS BY ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN AND LITTORAL STATES,
BASES STILL CONTINUE TO EXIST. THE ONE ON THE
ISLAND OF CHAGOS IS AN EXAMPLE, AND THERE ARE OTHERS
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PAGE 04 VICTOR 00368 01 OF 02 290758Z

PURSuing THEIR DEVELOPMENT. THIS HAS BEEN
JUSTIFIED ON THE PRETENCE THAT THE OIL ROUTE HAS TO BE
PROTECTED. BUT ALL THIS IS ABSURD AND THE ANSWER
IS SIMPLE; IF NO BIG POWERS WERE PRESENT THERE WOULD BE
NO DANGER, NO RIVALRY AND NO NEED FOR BALANCING ANYTHING.
WE WERE LIVING IN PEACE. EVEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
DID NOT AFFECT US. IT WAS MANY YEARS LATER THAT THEY
ALLEGED THAT THERE WAS A VACUUM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.
WHAT THIS REALLY MEANT WAS THAT THERE WAS PEACE IN
THE AREA. THERE WAS NO CONFLICT AND THEREFORE THESE
EVILS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION HAD TO BE INTRODUCED AND
WERE INTRODUCED, AND TODAY WE ARE ALL LIVING ON THE BRIM
OF A VOLCANO. WE HAVE BECOME THE PAWNS IN THE GAME
OF BIG POWER STRUGGLE.
SINCE WE HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO DECLARE THE INDIAN
OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE WE HAVE RECEIVED THE BACKING OF
WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. THE LITTORAL STATES MUST NOT REST
UNTIL WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE SUPER-POWERS SEE
SENSE. FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE MUST DEMAND THE
DISMANTLING OF ALL MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.
THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE THE KEY PROBLEM, SOLVE IT AND
WE ARE ON THE WAY TO MORE GENERAL AGREEMENT. WE MUST
THEREFOR PRESS UNCEASINGLY FOR THE REMOVAL OF BASES.

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00368 02 OF 02 290754Z

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 858
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 VICTORIA 368

ONCE THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, AND I DO NOT DOUBT OUR
SUCCESS IN THE RESPECT, WE CAN BE SURE THAT OUR
ULTIMATE AIM, I.E. THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE
OF PEACE WILL NOT BE FAR OFF. WE WILL THEN BE FACED
WITH THE MORE IMPORTANT TASK OF DEVELOPING AND
STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN. OUR GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION IS NOT
THE ONLY POINT WE HAVE IN COMMON. THIS AFFINITY, IN
ITSELF, POSES A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH WE NEED
TO CONSIDER TOGETHER AND REACH SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE
TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED. ONLY IN THIS MANNER CAN
WE DEVELOP MEANINGFUL TIES AND COOPERATE TOGETHER
WITHIN OUR ZONE OF PEACE. OUR FUTURE MUST
DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY
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PAGE 02 VICTOR 00368 02 OF 02 290754Z

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIES ON ONE
HAND AND TO COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS AND IMPROVE
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES ON THE OTHER.
I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK AT LENGTH AND IN PRECISE
TERMS ON THESE MATTERS SINCE THEY WILL FORM PART OF
YOUR DELIBERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE.
I ONLY WISH, AT THIS POINT, TO UNDERLINE THE NEED
TO CREATE A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON OUR JOINT
CONCERTED ACTION. WE MUST MANAGE OUR OWN ECONOMIES.
IF CERTAIN RESOURCES ARE LACKING IN THE SEYCHELLES

WHICH ARE VITAL TO OUR DEVELOPMENT IT IS NORMAL THAT WE SHOULD SEEK FOR THEM ELSEWHERE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEREFORE, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD AIM FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND CONSEQUENTLY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S ECONOMIES. SINCE WE IMPORT BEEF, FOR EXAMPLE, WHY SHOULD WE NOT IMPORT IT FROM THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC? THIS IS ONLY A SIMPLE EXAMPLE BUT OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO BROADEN ITS APPLICATION.

WITH REGARD TO FISHERIES THE PROBLEMS ARE MORE OR LESS SIMILAR. DURING THE COURSE OF A MEETING IN MAURITIUS I DECLARED THAT OUR PRIMARY AIM SHOULD BE TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS IN OUR ECONOMIC ZONES. THE MOUVEMENT MILITANT MAURITIEN LENT ITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THIS PROPOSITION. WE HAVE SINCE LEGISLATED THE EXTENSION OF OUR ECONOMIC ZONE TO A LIMIT OF 200 MILES FROM THE ISLANDS OF OUR REPUBLIC. THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES IN THE ATTEMPT TO ENSURING AN EFFECTIVE AND COMMON SYSTEM OF SURVEILLANCE. SUCH COOPERATION WOULD RESULT IN AN ENHANCED CAPACITY TO ORGANISE SUCH SURVEILLANCE AND

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 VICTOR 00368 02 OF 02 290754Z

REDUCE COSTS TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE OBJECT OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS SHOULD, THEREFORE BE TO CONSIDER IN DETAIL HOW SUCH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN CAN BE MADE EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.

I HAVE TOUCHED VERY BRIEFLY ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE COOPERATION BETWEEN US IS POSSIBLE AND EVEN ESSENTIAL BUT THE SCOPE FOR COOPERATION IS IN FACT VERY WIDE. WE REPRESENT A POWERFUL FORCE IN THE WORLD AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE SHOULD ORGANISE OURSELVES IF WE ARE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS WE MUST IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS. WHEN I SPEAK OF COMMUNICATIONS I AM NOT NECESSARILY SPEAKING OF MARITIME OR AVIATION LINKS BUT ON AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FORM OF COMMUNICATIONS-THAT IS COMMUNICATIONS ON A HUMAN AND PERSONAL LEVEL. THE STRENGTH OF OUR SOLIDARITY WILL EVENTUALLY DEPEND ON THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS. WE SHOULD ADOPT COMMON LINES OF ACTION WHICH SHOULD BE DIRECT AND UNAMBIGUOUS. IT IS OUR DUTY TO STAND FIRM AND UNITED AGAINST THE SCOURGE OF IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM.

TO CONCLUDE, I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE INTOLERABLE SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED AT OUR EXPENSE

BY AN OUTRAGEOUS BUILDING OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN
THE INDIAN OCEAN IS A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY OF ALL THE NEWLY-EMERGENT STATES OF THE
AREA. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT THE BIG-
POWER RIVALRY IN PROGRESS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
CONSTITUTES AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION WHICH THREATENS
PEACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD. WE WILL NEVER TOLERATE THE
USE OF OUR TERRITORY BY OTHER NATIONS IN PROMOTING
RIVALRY, BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND DESTABILIZING THE
INDIAN OCEAN AND THE WORLD IN THE PROCESS.
IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE
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PAGE 04 VICTOR 00368 02 OF 02 290754Z

TODAY AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE
A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE AND TO
MAKE A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR
THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLES-STRUGGLE WHICH IS
THE CENTRAL THEME OF THIS FIRST CONFERENCE OF
PROGRESSIVE PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SOUTH
WEST INDIAN OCEAN A CONFERENCE, WHICH IN THE SPIRIT
OF THIS SAME IDEAL I AM HAPPY TO DECLARE OPEN.
UNQUOTE.MATTSON

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